Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend the claims as shown.

1-20. (canceled)

21. (currently amended) A storage medium which stores a software system for providing a programming environment to create device-independent functionality among automation devices in an automation system of the type including a plurality of automation devices, the system comprising:

    one or more automation engineering editors for generating solutions for multiple ones ~~one or more~~ of the automation devices;

    a compiler for translating the solutions into an intermediate language in a runtime framework for further translation into different instructions for automation devices in different automation systems; and

    an automation device-specific adapter for each of the automation devices, each adapter providing a translation of a solution into instructions which can be interpreted by an automation device in a different automation system, the software system providing encapsulation of specific functions of ~~at least one of~~ the automation devices and providing a base functionality of the ~~one~~ automation devices, the editors and compiler providing an automation functionality in a standard framework for application among automation devices having different command sets for being programmed.

22-23. (canceled)

24. (previously presented) The storage medium according to claim 21, wherein the software system is provided for developing control software in the automation system..

25. (previously presented) The storage medium according to claim 21, wherein the software system provides technological objects for automation devices <u>and, when the system includes m editors and n automation devices, at most, only n + m compilers are required to implement the solution.</u>

26. (previously presented) A system including the storage medium according to claim 21, further comprising: a memory for storing automation solutions for recurring tasks.

27. (previously presented) The system according to claim 26 , adapted for using the Internet and/or an intranet for transmitting data.

28. (previously presented) The storage medium according to claim 21, wherein an automation-specifically designed programming language is used for developing control software for the automation system.

29. (currently amended) A method for providing device-independent functionality for automation devices, the method comprising:

       providing a compiler for receiving solutions from one or more automation engineering editors and translating the solutions into an intermediate language in a runtime framework <u>for further translation into different instructions for automation devices in different automation systems</u>; and

       providing an automation device-specific adapter for each of the automation devices, each adapter providing a translation of a solution from the intermediate language into instructions which can be interpreted by an automation device <u>in a different automation system,</u> the software system providing encapsulation of specific functions of ~~at least one of~~ the automation devices, the editors and compiler providing an automation functionality in a standard framework for application among automation devices having different command sets for being programmed.

30. (canceled)

31. (previously presented) The method according to claim 29, wherein automation functionality is provided independent of the automation device.

32. (previously presented) The method according to claim 29, wherein a development system is used for developing control software.

33. (previously presented) The method according to claim 29, further comprising: providing technological objects for the automation devices.

34. (previously presented) The method according to claim 29, further comprising: storing automation solutions for recurring tasks.

35. (previously presented) The method according to claim 28, wherein the Internet an intranet is used for transmitting data.

36. (previously presented) The method according to claim 29 including providing a programming language automation-specifically adapted for developing control software.

37. (canceled)

38. (previously presented) The method according to claim 36, wherein compilers are provided for mapping the intermediate language onto a target platform.

39 - 41. (canceled)